

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, 12, 25, 28, 30, 32-33 have been amended, claims 2, 9, 27 have been cancelled without prejudice, and no claims are added. Therefore, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, 12, 25, 26, 28, 30, 32-33 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-referenced application in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

### **Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

#### **Carhart**

The March 22, 2006 Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-10, 12, 25-28, 30, 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,622,304 by Carhart hereinafter (Carhart). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections because Carhart does not teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims, as amended.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a “local area network” with “universal client interface adapters” which provide, “through the modulated digital signal, within the second portion of the operating frequency of the cable, bidirectional time division multiple access communication between the at least three clients of the local area network.” (1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Paragraphs, Claim 1). (See: Applicant’s specification, p. 13, lines 22-24, supporting TDMA). These limitations are neither taught nor suggested by the cited portions of Carhart.

Instead of describing communication between “at least three clients,” Carhart describes a hierarchical system “designed to allow communication between the processing unit and those end-points having a pathway to the processing unit, but not necessarily between end-points directly.” (Carhart, col. 4, line 67 to col. 5, line 3). Further, instead of describing bidirectional communication between different clients within a frequency portion using TDMA, Carhart describes using a first frequency (“f<sub>2</sub>”) for communications from a central computing apparatus to the communications stations and a second frequency (“f<sub>3</sub>”) for communications from the communications stations to the central processing apparatus. (Carhart, col. 5, line 60 to col. 6, line 13). Carhart therefore fails to teach or suggest at least the above limitations of amended claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore patentable over Carhart.

Claims 3-5, 7, 10, and 12 depend from patentable claim 1 and therefore are also patentable. MPEP § 2141.03. By relying on MPEP § 2141.03, Applicants do not acquiesce in the specific rejections made of these dependent claims.

Independent claims 25 and 28 have also been amended to recite time division multiplexing within a site-based local area network. As discussed above, the cited portions of Carhart fail to teach or suggest at least these limitations of claims 25 and 28. Claims 25 and 28 are therefore patentable over Carhart. Claims 26, 30, and 32-33 depend from one of either claims 25 or 28 and are therefore themselves patentable. MPEP § 2141.03. By relying on MPEP § 2141.03, Applicants do not acquiesce in the specific rejections made of these dependent claims.

### CONCLUSION

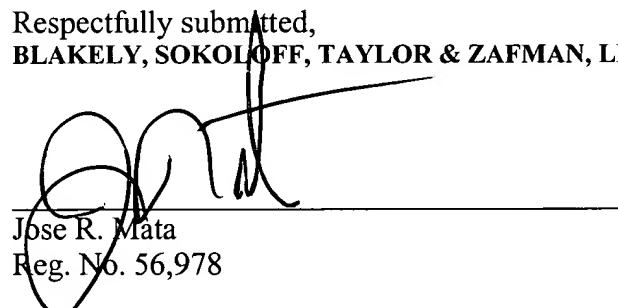
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections of the claims have been overcome herein, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the above-referenced application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date:

June 22, 2006

  
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